

## BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

DATE: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

CONDITIONS: Cloudy skies, mostly alto-stratus, alto-cumulus; temperature 68 degrees F with little breeze upon inception at 8:00 AM: temperature 86 degrees F at 10:20 AM upon walk conclusion, still cloudy skies with a breeze from 5-10 mph.



PARTICIPANTS: Gordon Cooper, Lee Bradley, Tom Worcester and guide, Joe Ford

TRAIL: A different path was taken this trip, as large camping groups dominated the east end of the park, thus we began with a short trek around the visitor center, then went to the east side and down the trail along the Gila River to the mitigated lakes. Our group didn't tour the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, or desert scrub area. This may have accounted for reduced species numbers.

The Gila River was in recession as terraced banks and mud flats were exposed. Water fowl was minimal as most species had moved northward toward breeding grounds. The spring flower bloom, which was beyond magnificent, was in decline as brittlebush was seeding and Globe Chamomile was also feeling the increasing temperatures, and although many plants were still in bloom, patches of dry chamomile were common. Grasses had also turned brown, much in contrast to the green that was everywhere in March. Several Phainopeplas were in chase mode, warblers were noticeably absent and the White-crowned Sparrows had yet to leave.



SPECIES: Mallard, Mexican Mallard female, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Verdin, Marsh Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Eurasian Collared Dove, Western Kingbird (44)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S35817612>